

11. (New) A quick release attachment system according to claim 10 including an elastic strap sized to length to connect the pin to the glove on the hand of the skier under tension so that, upon depressing the button, the strap can pull the pin out of the attachment mechanism.

12. (New) A quick release attachment system according to claim 10 in which the finger is moveable between a first position engaging the notch and a second position out of the notch, the attachment mechanism further including a spring biasing the finger into the first position.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are allowed. Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112(2) and claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wittstock, DE 4,103,235 A1. Objection is made to the Form of Specification and Claims. Reconsideration is requested.

Substitute reissue-application pages 15 and 16 are submitted herewith in which new claims 8-10 are underlined.

Pursuant to MPEP §1404, 1442.1 and 1442.04, Applicant hereby notifies the Office that the following lawsuit alleging infringement of parent U.S. Patent No. 5,443,287 (*Galen Wells v. Leki USA, Inc., Mountain Shop, LLC and US Outdoor Store* (D. Oregon)) has been filed. We do not represent the Applicant in this matter and do not have any particulars on this case.

The Examiner indicated in the action that all references cited in the original patent were considered in this reissue application, except that DT 26 18 723 A1 could not be located. A substitute copy of that reference is enclosed herewith.

Claims 8 and 10 are amended to overcome the rejections under §112(2).

Claim 10 is amended to define the attachment mechanism more clearly. The subject matter of the claim as amended appears in the specification at page 10, lines 9-19, and also pertains to the FIG. 9 embodiment described at page 10, line 30 through page 11, line 6.

Claims 11 and 12 are added, depending from claim 10. Claim 11 is supported at page

5, line 19 through page 6, line 17 and also at page 11, lines 4-6. Claim 12 is supported at page 10, lines 17-21. No new matter is added.

Claim 10 is patentable over Wittstock. In Wittstock, the thrustpiece (20) in the wall of duct (18) is fixed, not retractable as is the finger of claim 10. The push button (30) is mechanically coupled to the tongue or slip arm (26). Thus, Wittstock does not disclose or suggest using a retractable finger to engage in a notch in a pin, with the pushbutton mechanically coupled to the finger so that the finger can be retracted to release the notched pin.

Accordingly, applicant requests that the amendments be entered and the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

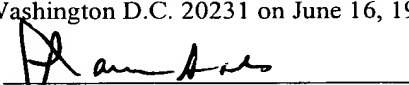


Stephen S. Ford
Reg. No. 35,139

MARGER JOHNSON
& McCOLLOM, P.C.
1030 S.W. Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97205
(503) 222-3613

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on June 16, 1999.

Signature


Laura Sabo

cocked position; and

a button coupled to the attachment mechanism and depressible with the hand of the skier, the button in the depressed condition disengaging the strap pin from the attachment assembly allowing the ejection mechanism to uncock thereby ejecting the strap pin completely out of the channel while the same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip.

8. (New) A quick release attachment system for coupling a hand of a skier to a ski pole, comprising:

a ski pole grip having a front side and back side, joined by opposite lateral sides and having a cross-sectional shape sized so that the hand of the skier can be wrapped around the ski pole grip in a gripping manner;

a pin attached to the hand of a skier;

an attachment mechanism disposed within the ski pole grip for receiving and locking the strap pin to the ski pole grip;

an ejection mechanism;

an elongated channel extending in a horizontal direction into the front side of the ski pole grip above the hand of the skier while said hand is wrapped around the ski pole grip, the pin inserting horizontally into the channel and engaging with the attachment mechanism while moving the ejection mechanism into a cocked position; and

a button extending from the ski pole grip and mechanically coupled to the attachment mechanism, the button depressible by the hand of the skier disengaging the attachment mechanism from the strap pin allowing the ejection mechanism to eject the strap pin horizontally from the channel out over a top end of the hand of the skier while said same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip.

9. (New) A quick release attachment system according to claim 8 wherein the ejection mechanism comprises a strap.

10. (New) A quick release attachment system for coupling a hand of a skier to a ski pole, comprising:

a ski pole grip having a front side and back side, joined by opposite lateral sides and having a cross-sectional shape sized so that the hand of the skier can be wrapped around the ski pole grip in a gripping manner;

a pin connected to a glove of a skier;

an attachment mechanism disposed within the ski pole grip for receiving and locking the strap pin to the ski pole grip;

an elongated channel extending in a horizontal direction into the front side of the ski pole grip above the hand of the skier while said hand is wrapped around the ski pole grip, the pin inserting horizontally into the channel and engaging with the attachment mechanism; and

a button on the ski pole grip and mechanically coupled to the attachment mechanism, the button depressible by the hand of the skier disengaging the attachment mechanism from the pin allowing the strap pin to detach from the attachment mechanism and move out of the channel and toward a top end of the hand of the skier while same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip.